

Programming
for the
Contemporary
Jazz Ensemble

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Iowa Bandmasters Association
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Des Moines, IA
Friday, May 14, 2016
2:00 PM

General Jazz Ensemble Programming Concerns and Techniques:

Instrumentation:

Full Jazz Ensembles

Reduced Instrumentation Ensembles

Ability Level/Technical Proficiency of Band and Individual Players:

Improvisation/Solo Sections

Rhythm Section: Chords vs. Written Parts

Lead Trumpet/Bass Trombone concerns

Harmonic Writing/Density concerns

Concert Setting/Goals and Program Models:

"Regular" Jazz Concert at School

Shared Concert with Other Jazz Ensembles

Jazz Festivals: Competitive and Non-Competitive

Special Events/Historical Music

Programming Issues and Techniques:

Segues

Consideration of Keys, Tempos, Rhythmic Feels

Soloists

Consideration of Lead Trumpet Player(s)

Other Technical Considerations (Acoustic vs. Electric Bass, Keyboards, Aux Percussion, etc.)

A VERY Short List of Recommended and Possibly Overlooked Charts:

Contemporary Originals

George Stone—*A Minor Point of View, All or Nothing at All*

John Fedchock—*Midnight Passage*

Fred Sturm—*Aim High, Ascending, Linebacker*

Bob Mintzer—*Original People*

Jim White/arr. Paul McKee—*Winds of the Gullah*

Bob Washut—*La Llama Azul*

Fred Stride—*Among the Pyramids*

Arrangements of Contemporary Jazz Standards

Steve Owen--*Syeeda's Song Flute* (Coltrane), *Manteca* (Gillespie)

Geoff Keezer--*Work Song* (Adderly)

Michael Mossman—*Afro Blue* (Mongo Santamaria)

Slower Ensemble Tune (instead of traditional jazz ballad)

Pat Metheny/arr. Bob Curnow—*Afternoon*

Carla Bley/arr. Bob Washut—*Utviklingssang*

Rick Margitza/arr. Dan Gailey—*Widow's Walk*

"New Standards"

Fred Sturm—*Black Friday, Bodysnatchers*

James Miley—*Black Hole Sun, Everything in its Right Place*

Steve Owen—*Kid A, One Mint Julep*

Overlooked Classics:

Benny Carter—*Kansas City Suite* (*Miss Missouri*, others)

Selected Sources: Music for Jazz Ensembles

UNC JAZZ PRESS

<http://uncjazzpress.com>

- Excellent source for professional level material, including composers Jim McNeely and Vince Mendoza (advanced college big band).
- Excellent source for accomplished high school and college bands.

SIERRA MUSIC

<http://sierramusic.com>

- Excellent source for accomplished high school level bands, all college bands, up to pro; including Bill Holman, Don Sebesky. Also a good selection of intermediate-level music for high school groups.
- Music of Pat Metheny arranged for jazz ensemble.
- Publisher of Stan Kenton library; other excellent works of West Coast jazz writers (especially 1950's and 1960s's).

MATRIX MUSIC (LORENZ MUSIC)

<http://Lorenz.com>

- Excellent source for music geared towards young jazz ensembles (Grade I and II especially, some Grade III)--junior high jazz ensembles, less advanced high school ensembles. Many of these charts started with the company Matrix Music, and since then have been acquired by Lorenz.
- Charts by Peter Blair, Steve Owen, Fred Sturm, Mike Dana, others

KENDOR MUSIC

<http://kendormusic.com>

- Good source of music for younger bands (John Fedchock, Maria Schneider, others); some decent advanced works by Fedchock, Matt Harris, others.
- "Kendor Konvertibles": Music adaptable to be played by as few as 6 horn players (plus rhythm)--excellent source for instrumentation-challenged ensembles.

EJAZZLINES.COM

<http://ejazzlines.com>

- Online distributor with connections to most major publishers. They do a good job of providing highlights from each and some of the most popular titles.
- Excellent selection of historical charts (Ellington, Gil Evans, others)
- Good source of charts for young bands, and specialized (holiday big band, vocal with big band) music.
- Recently acquired the catalog of Walrus Music.
- Also distributes Hal Leonard's excellent "reduced ensemble" series (playable by as few as 6 horn players plus rhythm section)—charts by Mark Taylor and Michael Mossman are especially good.

US ARMY JAZZ AMBASSADORS

<http://armyfieldband.com>

- FREE downloadable charts and reference recordings by the US Army Jazz Ambassadors!
- Several charts at 3 levels (easy; moderate; difficult)